

HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2003

HAMNET is the Official Emergency Communications Unit of the South African Radio League and is responsible for providing emergency communication in times of distress or national disasters to local and regional authorities, when requested to do so.

COMPILED AND PREPARED BY FRANCOIS BOTHA - ZS6BUU.

Firstly, I would like to wish all HAMNET members and their families, a happy, healthy and prosperous 2003.

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY;

BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY HOLIDAY ROAD TOLL - A SAD STORY WORLD CUP CRICKET FEBRUARY HAMNET MANUAL DISTRIBUTION EMC - A BOOKLET DOWNLOADED FROM THE INTERNET ON A LIGHTER NOTE

HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

KZN - Sunday morning at 07H00 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070MHz

National Bulletin at 17H00 local on 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz

Gauteng North on Tuesdays at 20:30. The frequencies are 145,725MHz and either on 7,070MHz in the 40M band or 3,695MHz in the 80M band.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Hamnet Western Cape Province with a bulletin on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 145:700MHz, relayed on 3,674MHz.

The HAMNET bulletin is e-mailed to all those of whom I have address and also sent out on packet by Rudi, ZS6DX. A synopsis of bulletins is reproduced in later editions of Radio ZS.

DECEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The school holidays are over but for a sad memory of the number of people who again lost their lives on our roads.

A Sunday newspaper summed it all up by equating the R200 million spent on the Arrive Alive Campaign, as a “dead loss” to coin a phrase.

Firstly, my thanks to many stations that voluntarily gave up their time to spend hours monitoring our emergency frequency, especially 7,070MHz in the 40M band. In particular, Johan, ZS4ZR, who was on frequency almost all of the school holidays.

There were other stations operative down in KZN and one or two mobile units that did a round trip around the Johannesburg area at the beginning of the summer holidays to bring HAMNET to the attention of the Traffic Authorities who have special stations around the perimeter of Johannesburg, not only for road safety, but also for the upcoming Cricket World Cup.

I personally handled only one incident that took place approx. 70 kilometres from Beaufort West on the Aberdeen road. There is no cell phone communication on that road and one M.V.A. reported by Mike Blake, ZS1E, had one fatality and one seriously injured person. At that moment in time, it was the 5th fatality on that stretch of road and again highlighted the use of Amateur Radio communication in outlying areas.

What was also sad about this accident was that passers by were more interested in what they can pilfer from the vehicle and occupants than assisting the injured people.

Obviously, our next campaign will be the Easter weekend, but lets leave that for later. Once again, my thanks for all those who assisted during this period.

WORLD CUP CRICKET

The event of the cricketing year is upon us. I have already sent out a memo to all Provincial Directors regarding the days on which games will be played at the various venues.

Free State has already submitted their team who will monitor on the days games are being played in Bloemfontein. Johan did indicate that the authorities were a little reluctant in allowing the HAMNET caravan too near to the Springbok Park Stadium, but Johan assured me that this will not be a problem.

In any event, we will probably only need, as explained in my memo, a few volunteers who will be able to make mobile units available if required.

More will be discussed when the February bulletin is prepared.

HAMNET MANUAL DISTRIBUTION

It is my intention, this year, to do a mass distribution of the HAMNET manual to not only the various Provincial Directors, but also the outlying HAMNET members for reference, should an emergency arise in their areas. I have done some upgrading of the Manual, and apart from 4 pages, it is ready for distribution.

I intend to cut the Manual into a CD for those who would like a copy so they can print at random in their respective areas should a copy be required.

More on this at a later stage.

Message forms and HAMNET Event Log Sheets are also available for those who wish copies.

Again let me remind all HAMNET and non HAMNET members, when an event takes place and you volunteer your Amateur Radio services, please do not forget to advise the League of all the stations participating and please keep a log of all communication that took place during the event, for not only statistical purposes but also should an accident take place and all information regarding this incident, must be recorded for reference purposes.

One can almost regard this a "Legal Requirement".

EMCOMM - AN INTERNET DOWNLOAD

My thanks to Hans, ZS6KR, who brought this download to my attention.

This 24-page booklet is designed for the American Amateur, but is an extremely useful printout that covers almost all the angles required of a volunteer Amateur Radio Operator in an emergency.

I need to ascertain the legality of distributing this booklet, as I had to pay \$3 for it.

Should you wish to download this booklet in the meantime, or until such time as I get permission to distribute it, the website is www.wr6wr.com Go to products and then select books. Please note, you cannot view this booklet until you submit your credit card information for the charge. After that, the booklet is downloadable and is extremely interesting.

It was written by Jerry Boyd, K6BZ. He is a retired Chief of Police and now Chief, Igo-Ono Fire Department. He has been involved in Amateur Radio Emergency Communication for many years and speaks with authority.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Amateur Radio these holidays took on another role, that of Informing the public of road conditions and accommodation facilities.

This happened to our man in Bloemfontein, ZS4ZR. He was approached by a motorist who turned out to be not only a tourist in South Africa, but his father is also a HAM in Canada.

He enquired from Johan as to road conditions, accommodation facilities and all sorts of other information before he went on his way.

He was surprised that Amateur Radio was such a useful tool when on holiday in our country and would mention this to his dad on his return to Canada

Well done Johan, now we all need to brush up on our knowledge of Bed and Breakfast facilities as well as "all sorts of other things" that a foreign tourist may enquire about our immediate surroundings.

Bulletin ends. 73